

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ:SAM
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
NSC:GTREVERTON (INFO)
H:KBJENKINS
AID/NEA:JKNOLL/AWHITE
AID/OFDA:WDALTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO

SUBJECT: SCENARIO FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION/AID TEAM
VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 86527; (B) STATE 81517; (C) BUCHAREST 2936

1. PROCEDURES FOR SECURING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION
FOR ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE REHABILITATION WILL REQUIRE TIME.
DEPARTMENT AND AID FEEL IT ESSENTIAL THAT EMBASSY, IN ITS
DEALINGS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, AVOID STATEMENTS ABOUT
APPROPRIATION WHICH APPEAR TO COMMIT US TO A SPECIFIC
TOTAL, A SPECIFIC USE, OR A SPECIFIC TIME-FRAME.
WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS CAVEAT MAY CREATE SOME DIFFICUL-
TIES FOR EMBASSY, AS WELL AS FOR AID TEAM, IN TALKS WITH
ROMANIANS NEXT WEEK, BUT GIVEN THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTIES
IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF HOW AND WHEN
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WE WILL HAVE IN HAND FULL \$20 MILLION AUTHORIZATION.

2. APPROPRIATION FOR ROMANIA WILL PROBABLY BE TACKED ON
TO THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR FY 77. A REALIS-
TIC GUESS AS TO WHEN THIS MIGHT FINALLY BE ENACTED IS
SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH PASSAGE IS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE SUMMER
RECESS WHICH BEGINS AROUND AUGUST 6.

APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ROMANIAN EARTHQUAKE REHABILITATION ACT UNTIL LATE SUMMER, WE ARE NOW FOCUSING ON DRAWING DOWN SOME FUNDS, AS NEEDED, FROM AID'S DISASTER RELIEF FUND (\$20 MILLION FOR WORLD-WIDE USE) FOR PRIORITY REHABILITATION PROJECTS IN ROMANIA. SINCE THIS FUND MUST HANDLE WORLD-WIDE DISASTER RELIEF, AID CANNOT COMMIT THE ENTIRE AMOUNT--OR EVEN THE BULK OF THIS FUND--TO ROMANIA ALONE. HOWEVER IT DOES ENABLE US TO BEGIN WITHOUT AWAITING FINAL APPROPRIATION ACTION. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT THE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEES ARE AWARE OF THIS PROCEDURE AND WE PLAN TO INFORM THEM EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT THE AID TEAM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMBASSY, ATTEMPT TO CATEGORIZE POTENTIAL PROJECTS (INCLUDING EQUIPMENT NEEDS AND SERVICES) NOT ONLY IN ORDER OF DESIRABILITY/FEASIBILITY, BUT ALSO INTO TIME FRAMES OF URGENCY; THOSE FOR WHICH FUNDS WOULD BE NEEDED BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 1; THOSE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE FINANCING FROM AROUND SEPTEMBER; AND THOSE WHICH ARE LONGER TERM AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE FUNDING UNTIL OCTOBER 1.

5. DEPARTMENT AND AID WILL KEEP EMBASSY ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE USE OF EXISTANT DISASTER RELIEF FUND. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS YOU SHOULD NOT GO INTO DETAILS OF HOW WE PLAN TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO ACTUAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION, OTHER THAN TO INDICATE THAT, IF REQUIRED

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IN TERMS OF URGENCY, SOME EXPENDITURES COULD BE FUNDED BEFORE CONGRESS ACTS.

6. WITH REFERENCE TO EMBASSY QUERY IN REF (C), THE PL-480 FUNDS USED TO PROVIDE NONFAT DRY MILK ARE SEPARATE FROM AND ADDITIVE TO THE \$20 MILLION. THE REMAINING DOLLARS 127,100 SPENT TO DATE FROM AID/OFDA FUNDS ARE MINOR AND MAY OR MAY NOT ULTIMATELY BE REIMBURSED FROM THE APPROPRIATION FUNDS. DECISION ON THIS WILL AWAIT ACTUAL APPROPRIATION ACTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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